

Sub A1

apparatus for providing I/O access to at least one network module, and the apparatus comprising:
a network module configured to couple to the network and to receive packets;
a first stage and a second stage serially coupled to the network module and to the at least one storage device; and
logic responsive to a received data packet from the network module to route the received data packet from said network module through said first and second stages to the at least one storage device, and responsive to a read request from the network to send a data packet from the storage device from whichever of said at least first and second stages the storage device includes the data.

apparatus of Claim 1, with said logic further operable to route packets corresponding with a single file or data stream in a single stream to the at least one storage device.

apparatus of Claim 1, with said logic further operable to route packets corresponding with a plurality of files or data streams to the at least one storage device.

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